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LETTER DATED 31 JULY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LUXEMBOURG ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the elections in Liberia issued on 30 July 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Louis WOLZFELD
Permanent Representative of
Luxembourg to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the elections in Liberia issued on 30 July 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union congratulates the people of Liberia on the free and fair elections held on 19 July. It appeals to all those who took part in them to accept and honour the results of the elections.

The large-scale participation in the election demonstrates the desire of the people of Liberia to return to a democratic and peaceful society. The European Union notes with satisfaction that despite very short deadlines and difficult material conditions the Independent Electoral Commission was able to organize the election in such a way as to allow all voters to exercise their right to vote.

The European Union thanks the Economic Community of West African States and its Monitoring Group, which helped to ensure a stable and safe environment for the holding of these elections.

The European Union is aware that the newly elected Government has a weighty task before it. The European Union assures the Liberian people and Government of its willingness to continue assisting them in the difficult phase of reconstruction. It hopes that the new Government, in the interests of the entire country, will be able to succeed in reconciling all those who opposed each other in the past.